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The Administration's Peace Plan.

The features of the Administration's peace plan, as matured to date, provide that all questions of dispute between this and another nation not capable of being settled by diplomacy shall be referred for investigation and report to an International Commission. For the purpose of drawing an expression of opinion from the powers, Secretary Bryan has suggested that this commission might consist of five persons, two of whom shall be chosen by their representative governments from within themselves respectively, two by the representative governments respectively from other governments, and a fifth to be chosen by the two governments collectively. It

is proposed that the treaties between the contracting parties shall provide that no war shall be declared or hostilities be begun until after such investigation is made and the commission's report submitted. It is proposed that the commission shall be permanent, that it shall conduct its investigation as a matter of course upon its own initiative, and that the report shall be submitted within one year from the submission of the dispute. It is not proposed to interfere with any nation's right to act independently on the subject-matter in dispute after the report is submitted.

It is now planned that there shall be a separate commission under each treaty, and that these treaties shall not take the place of arbitration treaties, but supplement them. A note elaborating more in detail the nature of these treaties is expected soon. While some months may be necessary before a treaty satisfactory to all the nations may be agreed upon, the Administration's habit of conferring frequently with the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs will reduce the delay to a minimum.

The United States, under the terms of the Administration's latest proposal, would be glad to consider the question of maintaining the status quo as to military and naval preparations during the period of investigation. If, during this period, however, danger to one of the contracting parties from a third party compels a change in military equipment such a change may be allowed through confidential communications specially provided for in the treaty. It is suggested that by some such measure the contracting parties could be protected from each other in ordinary cases, yet freedom of action be provided for in emergencies. But, as in the case of the previous proposals covering details, it is not the purpose of the Administration to impose at this time any fixed conditions. The principle of investigation is the great thing. This once accepted, the details are matters for conference and consideration.

The nations, in the order of their acceptance of the principles involved, are: Italy, Great Britain, France, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Russia, Peru, Austria, Netherlands, Bolivia, Germany, Argentina, China, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Denmark.

The plan does not meet the whole situation. It does not go as far as many would like, but it has some distinct advantages over any now before us. It is concrete and, we believe, attainable. A permanent organization like unto this would grow in effectiveness with increasing experience because, once begun, the working of the details would become increasingly easier. The deliberations of the commissioners